THE SIXTH DAY.

26th February 1914.

The Assembly met again at 11 A. M. on the 26th February 1914.

104. Some suggestions for the improvement of the Hospitals and Vaidyasalas in the State.

Mr. Gangadharan Ramavarman Thirumulpad (Member, Sherthallai taluk) said that Ayurveda was the original science of medicine and that all other methods of treatment were only its branches. Till 1036 M. E., treatment by western methods had not been introduced into Travancore. He then compared the expenditure incurred on the Vaidyasalas and the Hospitals and said that comparatively very little attention was paid by the Government to the former. Though there were no facilities for taking accurate statistics, a careful enquiry would convince the Government that the people had greater faith in the Ayurvedic treatment, and the volume of good done by the grant-in-aid physicians and the numerous other Vaidyans, who received no recognition from the Government, was indeed very large. The Government had withdrawn the recognition shown to Vyakara Moossu of Kottayam with the death of the senior member of the family. He said, on behalf of the people, that it was their wish that the invaluable talents of the family should be perpetuated by continuing the grant of Rs. 35 to the son of the deceased Moossu. While all the departments of the State had been reorganised, it was regrettable that the Vaidyasala Department was alone not allowed the benefits of a reform. He therefore submitted the following proposals for the consideration of the Government:—

(1) A person, universally accepted as the best, should be appointed as the head of the Vaidyasala Department.

(2) A Vaidyasala should be established in an important and thickly populated centre in each division and a capable Vaidyan on decent salary appointed in charge. A medicinal garden should also be attached to each of those Vaidyasalas.

(3) A laboratory should be established at Trivandrum for the preparation of native medicines, and such medicines should be distributed to the Vaidyasalas according to the budget of expenditure to be sanctioned for each.

(4) One Superintendent on decent salary should be appointed to each of the divisions.

(5) The native Vaidyans receiving no grant from the Government should be required to maintain the same registers and accounts as were prescribed for the gran -in-aid institutions, and also to submit returns to the Superintendents at Governmen expense. The accounts so sent should be consolidated in the office of the Head of the Department and published in the Gazette once in every quarter.

In regard to the hospitals, the Member said that greater insistence and closer scrutiny were necessary in the matter of giving medicine to the poor among the out-patients and proper diet to the really poor that sought admission as in-patients.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

105. The opening of an Ayurvedic dispensary in the Manakad pakuthi of the Thodupuzha taluk.

Mr. Govindan Nilakantan (Member, Nominated) said that the grant-in-aid Vaidyasala and the Sirkar dispensary at Thodupuzha were situated within a distance

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of a mile and a half of each other and the people living at a distance of about 20 miles from the institutions could not possibly go there for medical aid. There was thus no adequate medical relief in the taluk. The Member requested that a grant-in-aid Vaidyasala might be sanctioned in Manakad. If that was not practicable, the present Vaidyasala might be shifted to Manakad.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

VI.—EDUCATION.

106. Educational improvements in the State.

Mr. Kanakku Mallan Kesavan (Member, Neyyatinkara taluk) thanked the Government for the several educational reforms and in particular for the appointment of a Committee to report on the question of Vernacular education in the State.

Referring to the question of admission of students in the College classes, he said that he was aware of the recent order of the Government on the subject. It did not improve matters in any way. Only very few students were being admitted, and a large majority had to go outside and secure admission into the Colleges at Trichinopoly, Tinnevelly and other places. If the plea was that a greater standard of qualification was insisted on for admission in the Trivandrum College, he regretted to say that the examination results showed no improvement on that account. To obviate the inconvenience and to ensure something like a principle or rule, he suggested that an entry should be made in the School Leaving Certificates to the effect that the holders were fit for admission into the College, and that admissions into the College should be made according to the order of receipt of applications.

He next suggested the desirability of having a Technical Institute in Trivandrum. In his view, the practicable course would be to expand the School of Arts at Trivandrum and develop it into a Technical Institute. One of the Engineers at the Capital might be entrusted with its management, and one or two Assistant Engineers could be made *ex-officio* lecturers, with some allowance. In addition to engineering, such useful subjects as carpentry, blacksmith's work, carving, drawing, painting, and pottery should be taught in the Institute.

Lastly, the Member explained the need for reviving the Magistrates' Test Examination, abolished in 1083. Ever since, there had been a paucity of Criminal Vakils. There was also no scope for qualifying the Police officers and the subordinates of the Excise and Forest departments in Criminal Law. The Special Test Examinations of Madras in Criminal Law were also not being held here. He therefore requested that a Criminal Test, similar to the Madras Examination, should be instituted here and conducted under the management of the High Court as before.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

107. Education in Travancore—some defects and their remedies.

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai, B. A., B. L. (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that Travancore had been famous for its educational activities. From the time of Sir T. Madhava Rao, the State had been making rapid strides in education. But ever since the advent of the present Dewan, the cause of education had found even greater favour. The decided step was taken in making primary education free throughout the State, and that was a piece of statesmanship which would ever be remembered by the people with gratitude and admiration.

Proceeding to the subject, he said that his first point was in regard to the admission of students in the College classes. Admission was being refused in a large majority of cases, and the notice of such refusal was given to the students just at the last moment. The students experienced considerable difficulty in getting admission in the other Colleges of the Presidency. It was regrettable that, while the College primarily existed

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